

Governor's Task Force on Children's Justice
Friday, March 9 2007, 12 Noon
DHS-Grand Tower Building, 235 S. Grand Avenue, Lansing, MI
Dempsey Room (1st Floor)
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Justice Elizabeth Weaver, Sandra Amen-Bryan, Wayne Beerbower, Sue Dobrich, Shauna Dunnings, Elias Escobedo, Gloria Gillespie, Kathy Kovalchik-Lacko, Judy Labovitz, Bill Lansat, Sandy Lindsey, Ted Melinat, Eugene Moore, JoAnn Monaghan, Jolanda Murphy, Greg Pittman, Lisa Sullivan, Pat Wagner, David Wolock, Tracey Yokich, DHS: Colleen Duhm, Jim Hennessey, Ted Forrest, Mary Mehren, Steve Yager

Members Absent: Nancy Diehl, Sydney Duncan, Don Duquette, Kathy Falk-Fehrman, Nancy Francis, Pamela Gilbert-O'Sullivan, John Gravier, Linda Hallmark, Judy Hartsfield, Radwan Khoury, Mark Liss, Christine McPherson, Bob O'Brien, Sue Parrish, Michael Reisch, Lawrence Richardson, Pat Sorenson, Alice Thompson

1. Welcome

2. Minutes of January 11, 2007 Task Force meeting

Motion by Tracey Yokich to approve minutes. Motion 2nd by Jolanda Murphy. Full Task Force motion carried unanimously.

3. Meeting with Laura Champagne, Chief Deputy Director, DHS

Justice Weaver, Bill Lansat Sue Dobrich, Colleen Duhm, and Mary Mehren met with Laura Champagne, Chief Deputy Director of DHS. Members of the Governor's Committee on Juvenile Justice, Jeannette Scroggins, Leonard Dixon, and Gary Walker, were also present. Helen Weber of DHS' Office of Contacts and Rate Setting (OCRS) was also present. The meeting was to discuss the regulations imposed on the task force when contracting and funding projects. It was learned that even though the task force receives 100 % federal funds, once the funds come into the state (through DHS), the regulations set up by the Department of Management and Budget (DMB) must be followed. There is a strict process for contracting and purchasing that is set up by DMB. DHS is willing to work with the task force as much as possible to expedite the process, make it as user friendly/easy to navigate as possible, and to make sure federal funds are not lost.

4. Strategic Plan

(1) Strategic Plan-Vote Required

The Strategic Plan was discussed. A few minor changes were made. It was noted that John Gravier was unable to attend the meeting be he indicated via email that he approved of the plan. Motion by Lisa Sullivan to approve the strategic plan. Motion 2nd by Gregory Pittman. Full Task Force motion carried unanimously.

(2) Request for Proposal-Colleen Duhm

On February 9, 2007, the Executive Committee approved the "generic" request for proposal (RFP) that was reviewed and discussed at the full GTF meeting on 1/11/07. The proposal was sent to OCRS and it was rejected. It was too vague. OSRS indicated that GTF would not get quality proposals from the RFP. The task force was advised that OSRS indicated that we could do one RFP that will include all of the goals of our newly approved strategic plan. The task force would like to

see that happen. Sandra Lindsey and Sue Dobrich indicated that they would help work on this RFP so it can be released as soon as possible.

(3) Digital Cameras

On February 9, 2007, the Executive Committee discussed the possibility of providing digital cameras (with cases) for all CPS workers. They also would like to provide color printers for each county/district office. Sandra Amen-Bryan asked about CPS' policies on taking photographs. CPS is encouraged to take photos as a way to document evidence/findings. CPS cannot take pictures of the home without the parent's permission. CPS has policy on taking photographs of injuries on children. Steve Yager indicated that DHS is partnering with the Michigan State Police to provide investigative training for CPS workers. This training will include taking photographs. Motion by Judy Labovitz to approve up to \$160,000 for the purchase of digital cameras, cases, and color printers for CPS workers. Motion 2nd by Sandra Lindsey. Full Task Force motion carried unanimously. The task force would like to make sure there is a press release and publicity regarding this purchase. It was recommended that Colleen check with prosecutors to find out what number of megapixels would be recommended for pictures to be used in court.

5. Executive Committee Report

Specific committee reports can be found under Committee Reports below. The Executive Committee met on 2/9/07 and 3/8/07 and had a conference call on 2/21/07. The Executive Committee approved funds to pay for travel to DHS workers for all training sessions/conferences sponsored by GTF and for the forensic interviewing training put on by the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan (PAAM).

The Executive Committee discussed requesting that the Governor have Shannon Stotenbur-Wing appointed to the task force. It was agreed that she would not get officially appointed due to the conflict of interest that MPHI receives funds from the task force. It was agreed that the task force will have advisory members of the task force. Current advisory members are Mary Mehren, Steve Yager, Jim Hennessey, Ted Forrest, Ron Hicks, Carol Siemon, and Shannon Stotenbur-Wing.

6. DHS Report-Jim Hennessey

The Governor has proposed a \$40 million budget increase for DHS for the 2008 Fiscal Year. DHS is proposing to use this money on subsidized permanent guardianships. The Governor supports the use of this money, if approved, on subsidized guardianships. It is anticipated that potential guardians will be screened as closely as potential adoptive parents. There would need to be legislative changes to allow for permanent subsidized guardianships in Michigan. The Legislative Committee will look at this issue.

7. Committee Reports

A. Collaboration, Coordination, & Problem Solving-Sue Dobrich & Sandy Lindsey

(1) Domestic Violence Training

The Domestic Violence Training will begin rolling out in April and is tentatively scheduled to conclude in October. A L-Letter has been sent out to DHS staff. This L-Letter will be forwarded to task force members.

(2) Yellowbook Update (Bill Newhouse)-No update at this time.

- (3) **MPHI Contract-Shannon Stotenbur-Wing of MPHI**-No update at this time.

B. Training-Colleen Duhm for Bill Lansat

(1) **SCAO Update**-The Appellate Issues in Child Protective Proceedings Training is scheduled for March 14, 2007. 98 people are registered for this training, 20 had to be turned away. The Substance Abuse Conference is scheduled for April 3 & 4. Over 400 people are already registered, with 500 as the maximum attendance. The guide "Addressing the Educational Needs of Children in Foster Care in Michigan-Resources and Best Practices" was mailed to family court and probate court judges, DHS and CMH offices, tribal offices, and prosecutor offices. The task force wanted this mailed to private child placing agencies also, if it has not been done.

(2) **Additional Training**

The Training Committee had a conference call on February 27, 2007. Julie Welch of PAAM discussed several training sessions PAAM could put on for the task force. PAAM provided a summary, including costs, of the three training sessions the Training Committee was interested in having PAAM do: a Special Issues Training, ICWA training, and Preparing for Court. Motion by Tracey Yokich to approve up to \$10,000 for training to be provided by PAAM. Motion 2nd by JoAnn Monaghan. Full Task Force motion carried unanimously.

B. Citizens' Review Panel – Gloria Gillespie

The panel will be pursuing the issue of education for mandated reporters of child abuse and neglect and also general public reporting of child abuse and neglect. As a first step, the panel plans to send letters to professional associations that have mandated reporters as members to see what education they provide to their members on their obligation to report suspected child abuse and neglect.

The 6th Annual National Citizen Review Panel will be held in Lexington, KY on May 23-25, 2007. The panel would like to send one member to the conference; Pat Wagner is interested in attending. Motion by Gloria Gillespie to approve funds for Pat Wagner to attend the National CRP Conference. Motion 2nd by Tracey Yokich. Full Task Force motion carried unanimously.

D. Summit-Colleen Duhm for Linda Hallmark

The Summit is scheduled for September 6 & 7 at the Grand Traverse Resort in Traverse City, MI. Rachel Simmons who wrote the book *Odd Girl Out* and James Garbarino who wrote the book *See Jane Hit* will be the national speakers at the Summit.

E. Legislative Committee-Lisa Sullivan

The Legislative Committee will look at the legislative issues involved in permanent subsidized guardianships Jim Hennessey discussed during the DHS report. The committee will also look at the four bills pending regarding relative placements for foster children.

F. Video Recording Committee-Steve Yager for Nancy Diehl

Representative Sheen is drafting the video recording bill, as the task force supports it. It should be submitted to the legislature in a few weeks.

G. Web-Site-Colleen Duhm

The task force needs to approve the web-site. Once approved, an announcement can go out on DHS's and the Governor's web-site and links to the site can be made. Motion by Eugene Moore to approve the GTF web-site. Motion 2nd by Lisa Sullivan. Full Task Force motion carried unanimously.

8. Financial Report – Colleen Duhm

A. Tentative Allocation for FY 2007 (10/1/07 to 9/30/09)-\$530,189

B. Spending Unencumbered Funds

There is approximately \$200,000 of unencumbered funds that need to be spent by 9/30/07.

9. Old Business

None

10. New Business

1. Judge Yokich has signed up to attend the University of Michigan's Child Advocacy Law Clinic 30th Anniversary Symposium. Whether the task force would fund members to attend different types of training sessions/conferences was discussed. Motion by Tracey Yokich to approve the use of GTF funds to support members' attendance at training sessions/conferences without future formal motions by the task force. Motion 2nd by Sue Dobrich. Full Task Force motion carried unanimously.

2. Steve Yager indicated that the Rebekah Visconti of the Attorney General's office is developing training for local "teams". They would like to use the Shepard case. The task force does not have an objection to them using the case. Ernestine Moore developed that case so the task force felt that Steve should get her permission to use it.

3. Elias brought up the fact that the task force has no specific budget/spending policy. So the task force does not run into problems spending their money in the future, Elias would like to see some type of budget plan in relation to the strategic plan be developed. The task force agreed to this idea. Jim Hennessey indicated that Colleen Duhm should provide this to the task force as part of her role as staff person. The task force agreed and also felt that the Executive Committee would assist Colleen in developing this plan.

11. Public Comment

None

12. Future Meetings Dates

Friday, June 29, 2007, Boulevard Inn, St. Joe, MI

Wednesday, September 5, 2007, Traverse City, MI

Thursday & Friday, September 6 & 7, 2007-Annual Summit, Traverse City, MI

13. Adjourn

Motion by Tracey Yokich to adjourn the meeting. Justice Weaver adjourned the meeting.